AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A liquid medicament for preparing injection, comprising a micelle water dispersion liquid of

(a) (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof and

(b) about 1 to about 5 equivalents of a basic metal ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or the salt thereof,

wherein the basic metal ion is supplied by at least one selected from a metal salt of phosphoric acid, a metal salt of carbonic acid and a metal salt of sulfurous acid, and optionally a metal hydroxide.

2.-6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented): The medicament according to claim 1, wherein the basic metal ion is supplied by at least one selected from trisodium phosphate, disodium hydrogen phosphate, sodium dihydrogen phosphate, sodium carbonate, sodium hydrogen carbonate, sodium sulfite, sodium hydrogen sulfite, tripotassium phosphate, dipotassium hydrogen phosphate, potassium dihydrogen phosphate, potassium carbonate, potassium hydrogen

carbonate, potassium sulfite and potassium hydrogen sulfite, and optionally sodium hydroxide and/or potassium hydroxide.

8. (original): The medicament according to claim 7, wherein the source of the basic metal ion is (1) trisodium phosphate, (2) disodium hydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide, or (3) sodium dihydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide.

9. (currently amended): The medicament according to claim ~~2~~ 1, which has a pH of about 7.0 to about 12.0.

10. (original): The medicament according to claim 9, wherein the pH is about 8.4 to about 9.0.

11. (previously presented): The medicament according to claim 1, wherein the basic metal ion is supplied by at least one selected from a sodium salt of phosphoric acid and a sodium salt of carbonic acid, and optionally sodium hydroxide; and wherein the medicament has a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0.

12. (original): The medicament according to claim 1, wherein the salt of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid is a sodium salt or a basic natural amino acid salt.

13. (currently amended): The medicament according to claim ~~2~~ 1, which comprises about 2.5 to about 100 mg of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof per mL.

14. (original): The medicament according to claim 1, which is filled in a plastic container, a glass container of which inner surface is coated with silicone, or a glass container of which inner surface is surface-treated with silicon dioxide.

15. (original): The medicament according to claim 1, which is obtainable by dissolving (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid in an aqueous solution comprising about 1 to about 5 equivalents of the basic metal ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid.

16. (original): A medicament having improved solubility in an infusion, which is prepared by using (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid and about 1 to about 5 equivalents of a basic metal ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid.

17. (canceled).

18. (withdrawn): A process for producing a medicament comprising (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof and a basic metal ion, which comprises dissolving (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof, one or at least two selected from a metal salt of phosphoric acid, a metal salt of carbonic acid and a metal salt of sulfurous acid, and optionally metal

hydroxide in water to thereby prepare a solution comprising about 2.5 to about 100 mg/mL of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof and having a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0; and filling the solution into a plastic container or a glass container of which inner surface is surface-treated with silicon dioxide, followed by high pressure steam sterilization.

19. (withdrawn): A method for using a basic metal ion, which comprises preparing about 1 to about 5 equivalents of the source of the basic metal ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid and water as a solvent; and mixing (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid with water in the presence of the basic metal ion to thereby dissolve (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid in water.

20 - 22. (canceled).

23. (original): A medicament comprising (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid or a salt thereof, which is a liquid having a pH of about 7.0 to about 12.0.

24. (original): The medicament according to claim 23, wherein the pH is about 8.4 to about 9.0.

25. (original): The medicament according to claim 23, which is aqueous.

26. (original): The medicament according to claim 23, which further comprises a basic metal ion.

27. (original): The medicament according to claim 26, wherein the source of the basic metal ion is disodium hydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide.

28. (original): The medicament according to claim 27, which comprises, per mL, about 50 mg of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, about 80 mg of disodium hydrogen phosphate·dodecahydrate and sodium hydroxide; and has a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0.

29. (withdrawn): A container made of plastics, which is filled with 4 mL, 8 mL or 20 mL of the medicament according to claim 28.

30. (withdrawn): The container according to claim 29, which is an ampoule made of polyethylene or polypropylene, or a syringe made of cyclic polyolefin.

31. (withdrawn): A method for preventing and/or treating neurodegenerative diseases, nerve disorders or diseases in need of nerve regeneration, which comprises administering an effective amount of the medicament according to claim 1 to a mammal.

32. (canceled).

33. (previously presented): A medicament comprising (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid and about 1 to about 5 equivalents of a basic sodium ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid, wherein the basic sodium ion is supplied by disodium hydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide; and wherein the medicament has a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0.

34. (original): The medicament according to claim 33, which is filled in an ampoule made of polyethylene or polypropylene, or in a syringe made of cyclic polyolefin.

35 (new): A liquid medicament for preparing injection, comprising a micelle water dispersion liquid of

(a) about 2.5 to about 100 mg of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid per mL and

(b) about 1 to about 5 equivalents of a basic sodium ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid

wherein the basic metal ion is supplied by disodium hydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide; and wherein the medicament has a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0.

36. (new): A liquid medicament for preparing injection suitable for preparing aqueous injectable solution without clouding, comprising a micelle water dispersion liquid of

(a) about 2.5 to about 100 mg of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid per mL and

(b) about 1 to about 5 equivalents of a basic sodium ion based on 1 equivalent of (2R)-2-propyloctanoic acid

wherein the basic metal ion is supplied by disodium hydrogen phosphate and sodium hydroxide; and wherein the medicament has a pH of about 8.4 to about 9.0.